



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

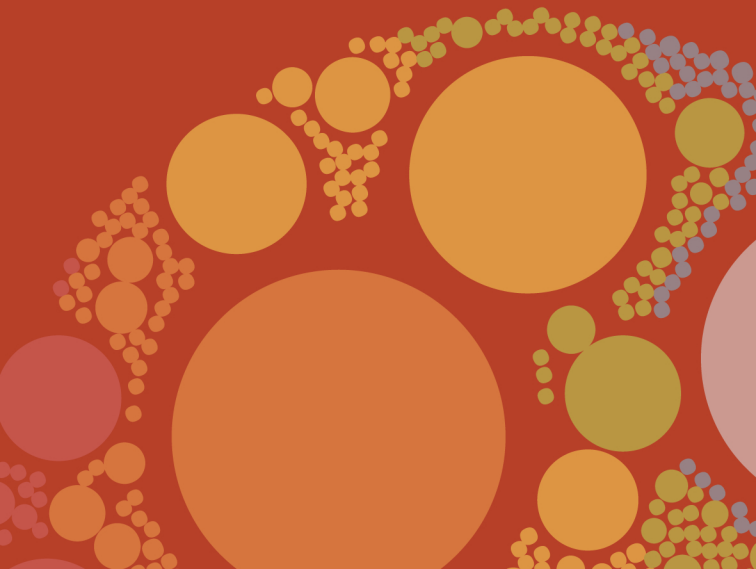
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Foreword

Effective, efficient and well-targeted policies are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In particular, creating a world free of hunger requires investment and policies backed by solid evidence and accurate data covering the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainability. Providing these data is the demanding, and sometimes overlooked, task of statisticians and national statistics offices worldwide.

As the custodian of 21 of the 232 unique indicators of the SDG Monitoring Framework, FAO is strongly committed to supporting policies to reduce hunger and rural poverty, improve agricultural productivity and promote sustainable food and agricultural systems. To do this, it collects country data and disseminates harmonized statistical information at the international level, develops methodological guidelines, and helps countries build their statistical capabilities and institutions.

This publication is meant to be an easily accessible, quick reference to selected key indicators on agriculture and food security, which are presented along four main themes.

The **Setting** describes the main trends in the use of agricultural resources such as land, labour, investment, fertilizers and pesticides. This section also highlights the pressure on food systems caused by demographic and macroeconomic development.

The **Hunger** dimension is monitored through two essential SDG indicators: the prevalence of undernourishment and the prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). This section presents the state of food insecurity and malnutrition in the world along four dimensions – availability, access, stability and utilization.

Food supply offers vital information on the nature and quantity of world agricultural production and trade, including their utilization, such as food consumption, feed and other uses.

The **Environment** examines the interactions of agriculture with the ecosystem in the evolving context of climate change.

We hope that this publication will help the general audience be better informed and the policymakers make those evidence-based decisions that would ultimately lead to a world free of hunger.

Pietro Gennari

Chief Statistician

José Rosero Moncayo

Director, Statistics Division

How to use this pocketbook

The structure

This publication presents selected key indicators related to agriculture and food security that the international community, governments, the private sector and civil society can use to assess current trends and prioritize their actions. It is divided into two sections, one thematic and one country-specific. It presents a variety of dimensions of agriculture and food security along four main focus areas:

The **Setting**, including land, labour, capital and inputs.

Hunger dimensions, highlighting food availability, access, stability and utilization.

Food supply looks at agricultural production, trade and utilization.

The **Environment** examines land, water, forestry and emissions.

This publication includes data from FAOSTAT and other FAO sources, as well as other partner organizations from the international community. *The source for all indicators, as well as more information about each of them, is included in the "Definitions" section at the end (page 236).*

Country definitions and classification

The country classification adopted in this publication is based on the United Nations M49 classification (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>). The country names have been abbreviated. The official FAO names can be found at <http://termportal.fao.org/faonocs/appl/>.

Aggregations

Regional and subregional aggregates are based on the country groupings defined in the United Nations M49 classification. A small subset of indicators is based on the aggregation rules defined in *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2019* report (<http://www.fao.org/3/ca5162en/ca5162en.pdf>) and are used in the "Hunger dimensions" section.

Two types of aggregations are used: sum and weighted mean. A sufficiency condition is imposed when computing the aggregation – the aggregation is computed only when sufficient countries have reported data, and the current threshold is set at 50 percent of the variable and the weighting variable, if present.

Data presentation conventions

The cut-off date for the data in this publication is 27 September 2019.

The asterisk (*) in charts and maps indicates the most recent year available in the specified time interval. In the country profiles, when the country data have not been reported for the reference year, data in italics indicate that the value for the most recent year is shown (within five years of the reference year). Exceptions are population data, for which the latest information available refers to the year 2018; and regional aggregates of prevalence of undernourishment and prevalence of severe food insecurity, which show 2018 data.

In the tables, n.a. means not applicable or, for an aggregate, not analytically meaningful. A 0 or 0.0 means zero or a number that is small enough to round to zero at the displayed number of decimal places.

The ~ in the maps refers to the range specified in the class intervals.

In addition:

- <2.5 proportion less than 2.5 percent
- <0.1 less than 100 000 people

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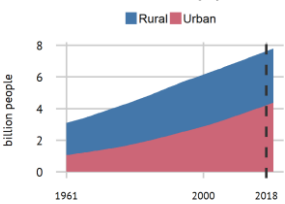
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The setting

Population

World population continues to grow, albeit at decreasing rates. The total number of people on the planet is now approaching 7.5 billion, marking a 100 percent increase since the early 1960s. Many regions have undergone the so-called demographic transition, in which an increased life expectancy combines with gradually decreasing fertility rates. But this is not the case everywhere: in several areas of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, young populations present high fertility, marking significant overall growth rates. Movement toward urban areas also seem to continue. Today only about 45 percent of the global world population is classified as rural, based on national definitions.

CHART 1: Rural and urban population



Data after 2018 are projections

CHART 2: Population, average annual growth, top and bottom 10 countries (2008–18)

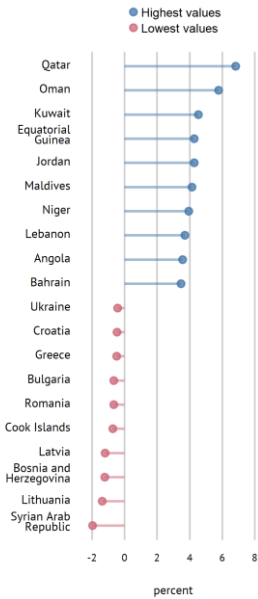


CHART 3: Life expectancy at birth, top and bottom 10 countries (2017)

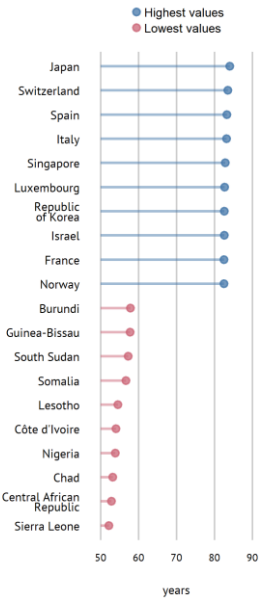


CHART 4: Total rural population

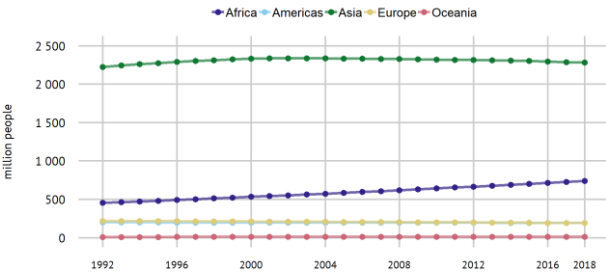


FIGURE 1: Rural population, share of total population (2018)

